Por. The qualitie of mercy is not ſtraind,
It droppeth as the gentle raine from heaven
Upon the place beneath: it is twice bleſt,
It bleſſeth him that gives, and him that takes.
Tis mightieſt in the mightieſt, it becomes
The throned Monarch better then his Crowne.
His ſcepter ſhewes the force of temporall power,
The attribute to awe and majeſtie,
Wherein doth ſit the dread and feare of Kings:
But mercy is above this ſceptred ſway,
It is enthroned in the hearts of Kings,
It is an attribute to God himſelfe;
And earthly power doth then ſhew likeſt gods,
When mercy ſeaſons juſtice: therefore Jew,
Though juſtice be thy plea, conſider this,
That in the courſe of juſtice none of us
Should ſee ſalvation: we do pray for mercy,
And that ſame prayer, doth teach us all to render
The deeds of mercy. I have ſpoke thus much
To mittigate the juſtice of thy plea,
Which if thou follow, this ſtrict Court of *Venice*
Muſt needs give ſentence 'gainſt the Merchant there.
Shy. My deeds upon my head, I crave the Law,
The penalty and forfeit of my Bond:
Por. Is he not able to diſcharge the money?
Baſſ. Yes, here I tender it for him in the Court,
Yea, twice the ſumme if that will not ſuffice,
I will be bound to pay it ten times ore
On forfeit on my hands, my head, my heart;
If this will not ſuffice, it muſt appeare
That malice beares down truth. And I beſeech you
Wreſt once the Law to your authority,
To do a great right, do a little wrong,
And curbe this cruell Devill of his will.
Por. It muſt not be, there is no power in *Venice*
Can alter a Decree eſtabliſhed:
'Twill be recorded for a precedent,
And many an errour by the ſame example

Will

Will ruſh into the ſtate, it cann
Shy. A *Daniel* come to jud
O wiſe young Judge, how I d
Por. I pray you let me look
Shy. Here 'tis moſt revere
Por. Shylocke, there's thrice
Shy. An oath, an oath, I hav
Shall I lay perjury upon my ſo
No, not for *Venice*.
Por. Why this Bond is forf
And lawfully by this the Jew
A pound of fleſh, to be by him
Neereſt the Merchants heart:
Take thrice thy money, bid m
Shy. When it is paid accord
It doth appeare you are a wort
You know the law, your expo
Hath been moſt found: I charg
Whereof you are a well deſerv
Proceed to judgement: by my
There is no power in the tongu
To alter me, I ſtay here on my
Ant. Moſt heartily I do bel
To give the judgement.
Por. Why than thus it is,
You muſt prepare your boſome
Shy. O noble judge, O excel
Por. For the intent and purp
Hath full relation to the penalty
Which here appeareth due upo
Iew. Tis very true: O wiſe
How much more elder art thou
Por. Therefore lay bare your
Iew. I, his breaſt,
So ſayes the Bond, doth it not no
Neereſt his heart, thoſe are the
Por. It is ſo, are there ballance
Iew. I have them ready.

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